

Library

B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the



B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R

and

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1959

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1959/60

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor R.Jolliffe
Deputy Mayor	" R.D.N.Fabricius
Aldermen	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.S.Jones
	J.A.Pittaway
Councillors	W.J.O.Bartlett
	J.Baylis
	A.E.Benstead
	A.G.Brodrick
	Rev.G.Davies
	R.S.Hallas
	G.V.Hall
	Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
	R.Pearson
	H.Roberts

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

Town Hall.

September, 1960.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

Nineteen fifty nine may be said to have been a healthy year for the Borough. The Vital Statistics in Section A show little variation from the National average. Although the Stillbirth rate is rather high, the Infant Mortality rate is low, the two being closely related to each other. Section F shows very little Infectious Disease. The usual cases of Measles occurred and there was a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery during the Summer months. The disease spreads due to faulty toilet habits, and a great deal can be done by teaching young children a hand-washing routine after the use of the toilet and before meals.

Once again there were no notified cases of Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, or Whooping Cough, which I attribute to the fact that the general public are being protected against these diseases by Vaccination and Immunisation. The response for Poliomyelitis vaccination has been excellent, but I am still not satisfied with the immunisation figures (Page 6). The Immunity Index shows that there is only a 64% acceptance rate in the child population (under 15 years) and for this reason I strongly recommend that a further booster dose be given at the age of 10 years. Smallpox Vaccination is more readily accepted, approximately 94% of children under one year being vaccinated.

Only two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and a Miniature Mass Radiography Survey carried out in July detected no cases, although a number of other conditions were referred to the Chest Clinic. The response to this visit was poor however, (see page 16).

A great deal of the Council's time during the year was devoted to the consideration of the Worcestershire County Council's scheme for the acceptance of overspill, and its possible effect on the Sewerage and Sewage disposal problems of the Town. Eventually the Council decided to play safe and proceed with intermediate works of an urgent nature, while leaving the door open for further expansion in the future. My only fear is that the temporary improvements to the Sewage Disposal works to be carried out may prove inadequate before it is economically possible to provide a new works in the right position.

May I express my thanks to the Borough Surveyor for his help and my appreciation of the kind consideration shown to me by all the members of the Council during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1959	7170
Number of inhabited houses 1959 (according to Rate Books).	2167
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1959	£107,394
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£428

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	67	53	120
Illegitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	5%

Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Birth Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.5

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	38.2
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	...	...	20.7
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	131

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Analysis of Deaths	52	49	101
Standardised Death rate	...	...	13.2
Death Rate - England and Wales	...	...	11.6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	7.9
Legitimate	...	...	8.3
Illegitimate	...	...	NIL
Infantile Mortality rate - England and Wales	...	...	22.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	7.9
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.8
Maternal Deaths	...	...	NIL
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	NIL

<u>Primary causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
" other	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	2
" " lung, bronchus	3	-
" " breast	-	1
" " uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10
Coronary disease, angina	11	7
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart diseases	3	8
Other circulatory diseases	1	-
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	5	1
Bronchitis	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and Pephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4
Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	1	3
Suicide	1	2
Homicide	-	-
End of Section 'A'	-3- TOTAL	52
		49

SECTION 'B' - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and seven part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service.

Chronic	47
General	12
Maternity	46
Tuberculosis	4

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two part-time Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 2,357 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 2,329 the previous year.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 132 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 164 the previous year.

A Medical Officer no longer attends this Clinic, medical attention being provided by the patients' General Practitioner. The Clinic remains open however for Ante-natal Exercises, Health Education, etc., a Physiotherapist, Midwife and Health Visitor being in attendance.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1959:-

Diphtheria Immunisation (including combined Whooping Cough injections)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year 176

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year 87

Diphtheria Immunity Index to 31.12.59

Age on 31.12.59	Under 1 1959	1 - 4 1955/58	5 - 9 1950/54	10 - 14 1945/49	Total Under 15
(a) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955-1959	51	421	544	72	1088
(b) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954 or earlier			150	486	636

(c) Estimated Mid-year child population 1700

Immunity Index
100/A/C $\frac{1088}{1700} \times 100 = 64\%$

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year 153
(Percentage under one year related to live births 119:126 = 94%)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ... 2

(f) Admissions to Part III Accommodation - National Assistance Act, 1948

No formal action was necessary during the Year.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.
- (ii) Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.
- (iii) Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Ronkswood.
- (iv) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.
- (v) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading Centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St.John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of Section 'B'

SECTION 'C' - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

As a result of the Minister's proposals that Local Authorities should co-operate in the formation of Joint Water Boards, negotiations were entered into with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company for the sale of the Borough Council's water undertaking to them. The date of transfer was fixed for 31st March, 1960 and has now taken place.

The change over has not materially affected the position and water charges have remained unchanged (with the exception of hosepipes).

The majority of dwelling houses in the Town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of standpipes in the area 10

Number of wells in the area 16

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER

Colour	Colourless
Odour	None
Appearance	Clear pH. 7.9

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million).

Solids in suspension	(Dried at 100° C)	-
" " solution	(Dried at 180° C)	265
" " "	(After ignition)	225
Chlorides calculated as common salt		21
Hardness, permanent		70
" temporary		120
" total		190
Free and saline Ammonia		trace
Albuminoid Ammonia		trace
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)		7.7
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)		Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)		Nil
Toxic Metals		None detected
Residual Chlorine on receipt		Nil

Opinion

The Chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

Date 13th March, 1959. Signed W.E.Jones
for County Analyst.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) in two days at 37°	Nil per 100 ml.
(b) Faecal Coli	" " 100 ml.

Opinion

The sample is fit for drinking.

Date 5th March, 1959 Signed: R.J.HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road have been carefully maintained under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor and are operating as efficiently as possible. Nevertheless the works are very considerably overloaded and improvements are urgently needed in view of the constant demand for further residential development in various parts of the Town.

The existing works were designed to treat a dry weather flow of 200,000 gallons per day. This figure is now undoubtedly 400,000 gallons per day or more so that the plant is working at double capacity. Flow through the sedimentation and humus tanks is far too rapid, the percolating filters tend to become clogged, and there are difficulties with the disposal of sludge. Sludge drying facilities are in fact even less adequate than the above figures would suggest.

Deficiencies in the sewerage system of the Town have been manifest for some time, especially in times of heavy rainfall when flooding occurs through manholes in the Queen Street area.

The sewer in Vines Lane also becomes surcharged in times of heavy rainfall. The surcharged condition of the sewers at these points can be attributed directly to the inadequacy in Friar Street of the main sewer to the disposal works. Undoubtedly this is aggravated by the drainage from Stalls Farm Estate and Manning Road which drain via Ombersley Street and Winnetts Lane into it.

Unfortunately prolonged negotiations with Worcestershire County Council on the possibility of taking Birmingham Overspill have delayed action on the sewage problem and it is still by no means certain that a measure of overspill may not be taken in the future.

The Consulting Engineer has now advised that should there be substantial new development, then it would be wise to construct a new sewage disposal works further down the Salwarpe Valley. Whether this will ever be done undoubtedly depends on the rapidity of the growth of the Town, but plans for 200 houses in the vicinity of St. Andrew's House have already been presented and the New Witton Estate continues to grow at a steady rate, apart from any Council houses which require to be built.

Fortunately a partial solution to the immediate problems has been found by diverting part of the sewage flowing along Ombersley Street in a westerly direction down Ombersley Road to the Canal bridge where a temporary pumping station will have to be built. This will divert the bulk of the sewage from Stalls Farm Estate and half of the St. Andrew's House development, thus relieving to some extent the existing sewers in the centre of the Town.

Approval has been given to the following work being carried out:-

- (a) Provision of surcharge relief pumps in High Street area.
- (b) Construction of a permanent sewer draining from Stalls Farm Estate to the bridge conveying the Ombersley Road over the Canal.
- (c) Construction of a temporary pumping station near the above bridge and a rising main thence to the existing works.
- (d) Construction of a balancing tank and sludge lagoon at the existing disposal works.
- (e) Provision of additional pumps at the disposal works together with the relaying of certain pipework.

This work can only be regarded as a temporary expedient, careful consideration being given to the resiting of the Sewage Disposal Works as soon as Overspill negotiations have been completed.

3. Droitwich Sea Bathing Lido

A warm summer brought large numbers of visitors to the Lido and at week ends and Bank Holidays there were occasions when the bath was overloaded. Nevertheless the plant has maintained the water in a satisfactory condition. Lifeguards have kept constant vigil at all times over the swimmers in the deep end. The only problem which remains is the vast amount of litter lying about towards the end of the day. This is entirely the fault of the General Public as litter bins are very prominently placed and the staff do their utmost to keep the place tidy.

4. Refuse Disposal

The Council's refuse tip is situated on land adjacent to the King George Playing Field. The site is nearly completed and consideration has been given to the use of an old quarry at Upton Warren, or tipping into the disused Canal. Both these projects have now been abandoned in favour of adding an additional layer of refuse to the present site.

5. Droitwich Canal

As a result of further meter readings of the amount of brine discharge for Droitwich Brine Baths, the Consulting Engineers advised that a smaller scheme would meet the requirements of the Canal Abandonment Act. Meetings were held with both Worcester and Coventry City and later with the Trustees of the Brine Baths, together with representatives of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Management of the Brine Baths eventually agreed to contribute towards the cost of the Scheme, and the Borough Council decided in favour of the smaller scheme, thereby forfeiting the grants offered by Worcester and Coventry, but not that from the County Council. The Consulting Engineer has now been asked to proceed with detailed plans. A Ministerial Enquiry was held, when only minor objections were raised, but work has not yet commenced.

6. Mortuary

An old corrugated iron building at the rear of the Fire Station in Friar Street is still being used as a Public Mortuary. It has been agreed that the building is most unsatisfactory for the purpose yet no alternative arrangements have been made. Negotiations with adjoining Authorities have been unsuccessful in the past and it is a pity they cannot be re-opened.

End of Section 'C'

SECTION 'D' - HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1959:-

Number of new houses erected:-	
(1) By the Local Authority (Bungalows 9, Flats 4)	13
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	55
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	90
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	173
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	67
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	4
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	4
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.</u>	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	17
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
(1) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	3
(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
By Owners	3
By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	NONE

- (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-
- | | |
|---|------|
| By Owners | None |
| By Local Authority in default of Owners | None |
- (3) Proceedings under sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.
- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | None |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | None |
- (4) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:-
- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | 3 |
| (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | None |

Housing Act, 1957, Part IV. Overcrowding

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year:- | Nil |
| | (b) Number of families dwelling therein | - |
| | (c) Number of persons dwelling therein | - |
| (2) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. | None |
| (3) | (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | 2 |
| | (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases. | 4 |
| | (c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved. | Nil. |

End of Section 'D'

SECTION 'E' - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of Food Premises within the Borough was carried out throughout the year by the Public Health Inspector. Generally speaking the standard set by the Catering Industry is excellent, and most shop premises satisfactory. No serious complaints were received during the year.

There is one manufacturer and thirty five retailers of Ice-Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Three premises are registered as Dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and six dealers distribute milk within the Borough. Licences issued during the year were for the following designations.

Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised only	2

Routine meat inspection was carried out by the Public Health Inspector at the one private slaughterhouse operating in the Borough, and the quantity of meat dealt with is shown on the following table:-

Schedule of Meat inspected during 1959

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed (if known) approx.	100	-	5	596	214
Number inspected	100	-	5	596	214
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	-	-	10	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13%	-	-	1.67%	.46%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	20%	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-

End of Section 'E'

SECTION 'F'

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table:-

Disease	Total Cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Tuberculosis	3	3	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	16	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Measles	41	-	-
Dysentery	48	-	-

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Dysentery	T.B.
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
1 - 2 years	-	15	-	-	-	-	4	-
3 - 4 years	1	9	1	-	-	-	9	-
5 years	11	12	-	-	-	1	20	-
10 years	4	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
20 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1
35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
45 & over	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Totals	16	41	1	2	1	1	48	3

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below:-

Age Periods	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1959 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1959.	23	19	2	8
Additions to register during year - New Cases	1	1	-	1
- Others	-	1	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
Deductions from register during year.	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1959.	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

DUDLEY MOBILE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

BRIEF ANALYSIS OF SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN DROITWICH AND DISTRICT MINIATURE
FILMING FROM 20th JULY, 1959 to 31st JULY, 1959

UNIT LOCATIONS:-

Droitwich Secondary Modern School
Winter Gardens, Droitwich.

Droitwich Rural District was also visited and unfortunately it has not been possible to separate the figures available.

A total of 1,864 persons were X-rayed in the following groups:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public	326	505	831
Scholars	131	141	272
Nu-Way Heaters Ltd.	138	35	173
War Office	50	27	77
Deritend Precision Castings Co.Ltd.	58	32	90
Oaklands Nursery Staff	-	31	31
Other Organised Groups	<u>244</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>390</u>
Totals:-	<u>947</u>	<u>917</u>	<u>1864</u>

Of the total of 1,864 persons, 35 were recalled for a large film and 6 for clinical examination by the Medical Director in the following groups:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Large Film</u>	<u>Clinical Examination</u>
Public	16	3
Scholars	-	-
Nu-Way Heaters	5	2
War Office	1	-
Deritend Precision Castings Co.Ltd.	-	-
Oaklands Nursery Staff	1	-
Other Organised Groups	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals:-	<u>35</u>	<u>6</u>

TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS

1 case was referred to the Chest Clinic as Inactive Tuberculosis (scholar)

SIGNIFICANT NON-TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS

8 cases were referred to the Chest Clinic as non-tuberculous abnormalities.

14 cases received other action as non-tuberculous abnormalities.

No active cases of Tuberculosis were discovered.

End of Section 'F'

SECTION 'G'

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made as follows:-

1.	(a)	Number of Factories on register in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	51
		Number of Inspections made	13
	(b)	Number of Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	NIL
		Number of Inspections made	NIL
	(c)	Number of other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	NIL
		Number of Inspections made	NIL
2.		Cases in which Defects were found	2
3.		Number of Out-workers in list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (3)	NIL

End of Section 'G'

September, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 15th Annual Report upon my duties as Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor.

Overspill or Town Development still dominates much of the work of the Council, particularly from the point of view of the very necessary additions to the sewage disposal works, and the improvement of the sewerage system. It is difficult to see how quickly we shall be in a position to proceed with this work until the wide difference of opinion upon the eventual size of the Borough has been settled. In the meantime, a scheme has been prepared to carry out temporary works at the sewage disposal works, and to discharge drainage from part of the Borough direct to the works, disconnecting from the existing system of sewers in order to give them some relief. The unfortunate thing is that such works are in the main, whilst being expensive, only temporary in character.

The disposal of house refuse is also becoming a problem, which you will see I have referred to in detail in my report. I would think that my suggestion that a joint scheme of recovery and incineration of refuse entered into with other districts in the neighbourhood might be worth investigation.

Your Council have carefully investigated the rising costs of house management and revised your policy in order to keep the costs within the budget figure. During the year under review, it is thought that the expenditure on housing repairs will in fact be within the budget.

The scheme for dealing with the canal has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry, and it is hoped that this will soon be dealt with in order that the very necessary re-development of land off the Town Centre can be completed.

I would thank your Council for your continued support during the year, and also the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, my own staff and other colleagues for their ready advice and assistance.

Inspections and visits made during 1959 are as follows. The considerable amount of work entailed in inspection of new buildings to ensure compliance with the Building Byelaws and planning requirements will be noted.

Visits of inspection of works in progress at New Bungalows and Shops	44
Visits to direct labour and contract works	212
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws	673
Inspections re maintenance of highways	164
Inspections re public water supply	29
Inspections re factories including bakehouses	13
Inspections of food shops and catering premises	28

Inspection of Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	130
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	...	...	...	...	...	349
Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	107
Visits re supervision of Lido, Parks and Public Open Spaces	...	...	...	...	...	253
Visits re Canal Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	34
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage, water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluents						16
Number of houses inspected for housing defects, including re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	173
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advice re planning and building byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	152
Inspections of petroleum installations	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection of houses regarding grants or in course of improvement	...	...	...	...	...	36
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded	...	...	...	...	...	82

New Housing

In 1959 the Council only built 4 bungalows at Chapel Bridge and 5 bungalows, 4 flats and 2 shops at Robeson Close off Charles Henry Road. The schemes were completed and dwellings occupied and they proved very popular with the tenants. The chief problem in housing facing the Council during the year was that of under occupation. It is very apparent that a lot of Council houses having three bedrooms are occupied only by one or two persons, and if these tenants could be persuaded to vacate their houses and transfer to smaller accommodation, the three bedroom houses thus made available would go a long way towards meeting the present housing needs of larger families in the Borough. To this end the Council decided after inspections of flats and bungalows in various parts of the country to build a number of 1 bedroom flats and a block of 1 bedroom bungalows on several plots suitable for infilling. These would be partly for older people and partly for young couples, of whom quite a number are now waiting on the list for housing accommodation.

The Council made 7 loans and 3 guarantees to enable the purchase of private houses under the Housing Act, 1949.

Further garages were built by the Council, a block of 10 at Chawson and a further 8 at St. Peter's Crescent.

Building at the New Witton Estate continues and the small bungalow estate at the Roundabouts off Newland Road to be called Newland Drive was well in hand with a number of bungalows occupied. Private development of an Estate off Holloway Road also progressed.

Housing circumstances within the Borough

The Council pressed ahead with their slum clearance programme during the year and 3 Closing Orders were made, 1 Time and Place Notice was served and an undertaking accepted from the owner, 4 tenants being re-housed in Council houses.

Improvement Grants

The Council continued their policy of making improvement grants for the reconditioning and improvement of houses and during the year the following grants were given:-

	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
Messrs.F.G.&.L.V.Everton, 3, Hanbury Street	£56. 10. Od.
Mrs.D.L.Williams, 1, Miller Street	64. 0. Od.
Mr.S.C.Cleveley, 13 & 15, Burrish Street	375. 0. Od.
Mr.P.Sandles, 4, Westcroft Street	400. 0. Od.
Miss J.M.Mapson, 58, Corbett Avenue	89. 4. 3d.
Mr.L.R.and Mrs.M.G.Moore, 17, Tagwell Road	400. 0. Od.
Trustees of Strathcona Peerage Trust, Briar Mill Cottages	400. 0. Od.
Mr.A.T.Maycroft, 52, Ombersley Street	180. 0. Od.

Applications for Council Houses

110 applications are on your Primary Waiting list for Council houses and 63 applicants are waiting for the completion of their registration period. In spite of the very limited amount of building carried out by the Council, 19 registered applicants were housed during the year, 8 as a result of new building, and 11 due to wastage of tenancies.

Council House Management

At the end of 1959, the Council owned 714 dwellings of all types.

Five of the tenants of the new bungalows built during the year were transferred from three-bedroom houses which were then allocated to applicants with families on the Housing list. This is a policy which must be persevered with to enable the best use to be made of the housing accommodation at present available.

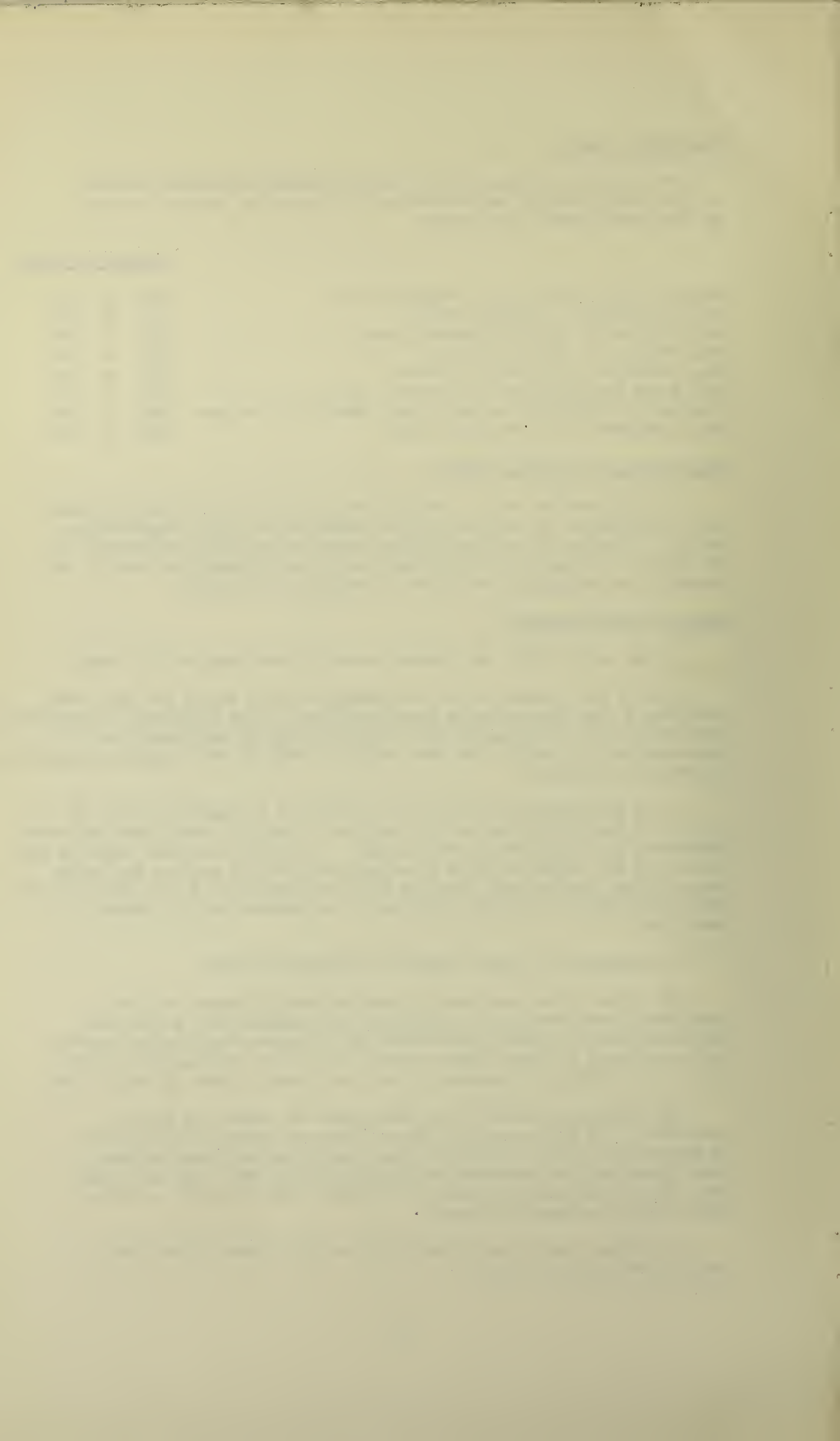
It is interesting to note that of the first 12 bungalows built by the Council at the Stalls Farm estate, only one tenancy in nine years has been terminated by the decease of the tenant. It would seem that there is much to be said for trying to build up an appreciation for smaller dwellings amongst older people whose families have now grown up and left them, whereby they would desire to move to this type of accommodation with modern amenities.

23 transfers of tenants took place during the year.

The costs of the provision of further Council houses and their subsequent rents resulted in prolonged investigation into a new rent structure for all types of accommodation. A scheme was finally approved for rents based on twice gross rateable value to be implemented to 25% of the total scheme to commence at the new financial year of April, 1960.

The increasing costs of the maintenance of houses was fully considered. By increasing the interval between external redecoration of houses from five to six years, the benefit derived from the new Rent Scheme and the increased contribution to £13 per house per annum from the Housing Revenue Account it was felt that the costs could be kept within the amounts allowed.

115 houses and the shops and flats at Stalls Farm estate were redecorated during the year.



Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspections

Slaughtering continued at the single slaughterhouse in the Borough used by Messrs. Levett & Hill where the following carcasses were inspected:-

<u>Oxen</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
100	5	214	596

184 lbs. of meat were voluntarily surrendered by the Butcher concerned as being unfit for food.

The Council will be pleased to note that 100% inspection can be said to be carried out of all meat slaughtered for food within the Borough.

With the coming into operation of the Slaughterhouses Act, discussion has taken place with the butcher concerned about the improvement of his slaughterhouse. It seems unlikely that he will be prepared to carry out major alterations and will in due course either arrange to slaughter in Worcester or Bromsgrove.

Food Premises

The following food premises were in operation within the Borough:-

Hotels	5
Cafe's	10
Canteens	4
Grocers	25
Butchers	10
Fishmongers	3

These were inspected from time to time and generally speaking are maintained in good condition.

Sampling

Samples taken during the year were as follows:-

Ice Cream	10
Town Water	1
Sewage Effluent	1
Lido Water	3

Scavenging and Public Cleansing

Disposal of house refuse has continued as in previous years there being a collection from each dwelling house every week with three collections each week from the larger hotels. Trade refuse is also collected by arrangement, a charge being made in this case.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at the Council's tip off Ombersley Road. This tip is nearing completion and active steps are being taken to try and find an alternative which is proving difficult. It was felt that possibly suitable tipping could be found in a large disused pit at Upton Warren but as this was filled with water and after investigation was found difficult to drain, it was decided, following consultations with the Severn River Board and the Rural District Council not to proceed.

The question of disposal by destructor was also considered and discussed with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The latter advised that the Town was not of sufficient population to enable an efficient system of incineration to be carried out and it was decided that tipping would have to take place with a further layer on the existing tip, bringing into use such parts of the canal as is possible when the canal scheme is completed. As other local authorities probably have the same problem it might be worth consideration as to whether an incinerator could be built and used jointly by several authorities such as Droitwich Borough, Bromsgrove Urban and the Rural District Councils.

During the year, regular collection of salvage was continued and the undermentioned quantities of materials were collected and sold:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>		
Mixed Waste Paper	21	14	2	value	£156. 11. Od.
Cardboard	6.	2.	0	"	57. 19. Od.
Scrap Iron	11.	2.	0.	"	<u>77. 14. Od.</u>
			Total		<u>£292. 4. Od.</u>

Street cleansing has been continued by means of the electric street orderly truck and also by individual trucks. The centre of the Town is swept each day, the remainder of the Borough weekly. Gully emptying is carried out by contract by means of a gully emptying machine.

Rodent Control

Very few complaints have been received concerning rats and mice within the Borough. Your Rodent Operator has continued to make systematic inspections and surveys and the list of surveys and results is set out on the attached sheet.

Highways

The highways in the Borough were maintained and in particular a scheme was prepared and tenders invited for the completion of the reconstruction of Newland Road and Tagwell Road. Tenders were received in May, but unfortunately owing to the length of time required for approval, the work did not proceed during the year and at the end of the year commencement was anticipated.

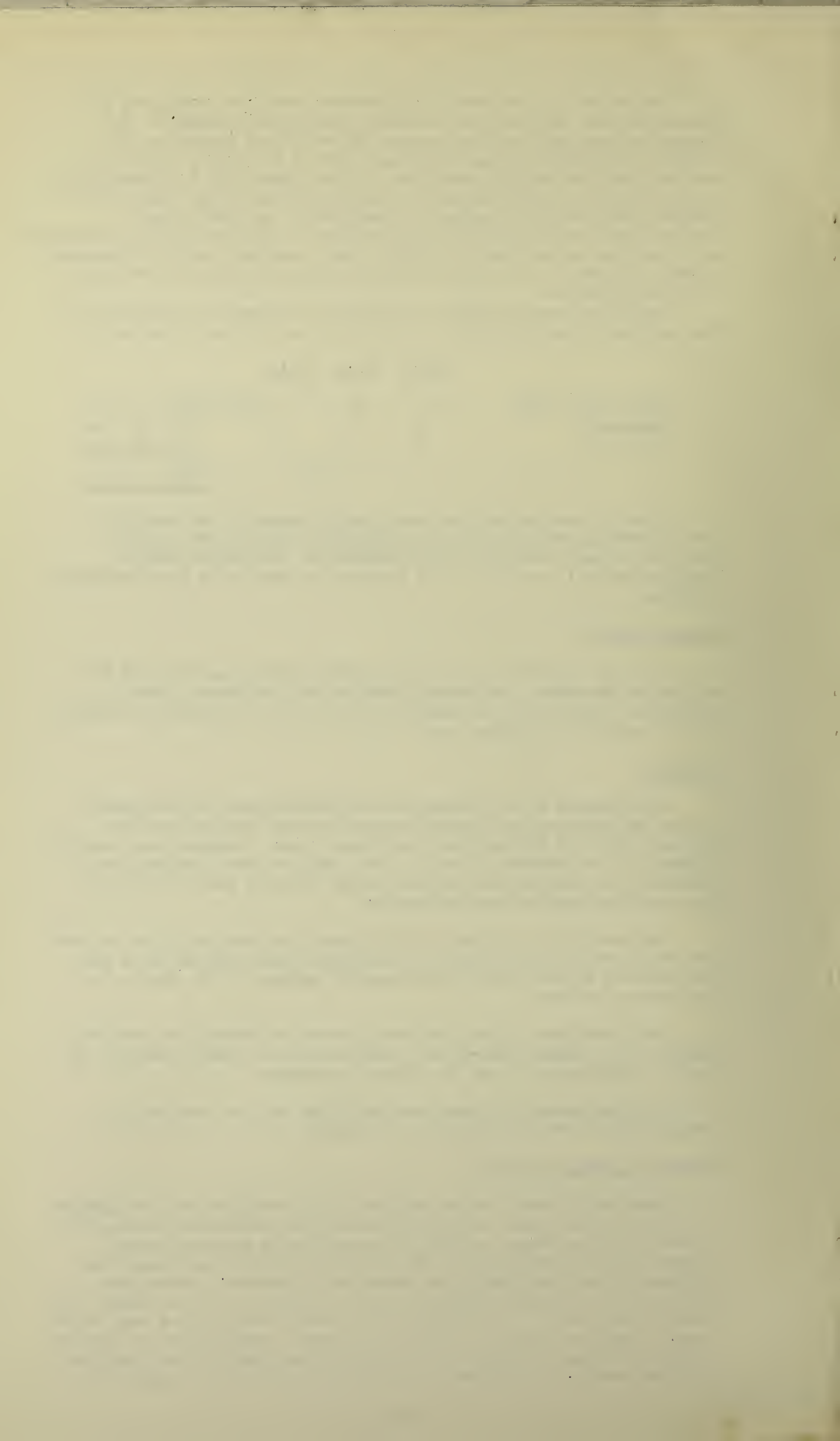
The footpath on the West side of Lyttelton Road which for so long has been unmade has been made up, the large trees removed and a much more orderly street picture is pleasantly apparent. The East side now needs attention.

The inadequate culvert and sharp corner in Hadzor Lane were much improved by a scheme carried out jointly with the County Council, the corner being taken off and the culvert enlarged.

The carriageway of Vines Lane which had settled down badly in various places was regulated and resurfaced.

Sewers and sewage disposal.

These still form a major problem. As a result of the development of the Town some sewers are proving themselves inadequate in capacity to deal with the large quantity of water flowing into the sewers adjacent to the Salwarpe, and during time of storm flood conditions in Queen Street and High Street become more frequent. During the past year this flooding happened on two occasions, once in January and again in May much to the disquiet of persons living in that part of the Town. During the year the Council have given consideration to finding a suitable means of standby for the electrical plant at the High Street Ejector station, the alternatives being a second line of supply from



the Electricity Board or alternative form of motive power such as an oil engine. It seems likely that the Midlands Electricity Board will make a further line available.

The sewage disposal works continue in their very much overladen state but steps cannot be taken at present to deal with this problem until some idea is known as to the future development of the Town whether by Overspill or otherwise and the capacity of the sewers and the disposal plant then required calculated. It certainly seems likely that the further land which when purchased it was anticipated would be adequate for additions to the sewage works, will in fact prove to be wrongly situated, as development seems likely to turn towards the West of the Town, and the new sewage works when built may have to be sited lower down the Salwarpe Valley.

At present the works are being maintained in as fit a condition as is possible and the Manager is doing his utmost to keep the effluent up to such state as not to cause a nuisance in the River.

Water Supply

With the approaching merger of the undertaking with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company no mains were laid during the year. The water consumption during this dry period was as follows:-

Water consumption 1959 amounted to 118,001,000 gallons, averaging 323,357 gallons per day, as compared with an average of 293,693 gallons per day in 1958. This increase is accounted for by the very dry year and increased industrial consumption.

Parks and Open Spaces

These were maintained in fair condition and with the provision of a tractor and Hayter cutter it was possible to maintain the playing fields at the various children's playgrounds and other grass open space in much better condition than previously.

The King George Playing Field is still much overworked, but consideration was being given to the extension of this field to include Poplars Meadow, and if this is done improvement of cricket and hockey pitches should be possible.

The Bowling Green at the Vines Park was maintained in a satisfactory condition, approved for County Play, and much used.

Droitwich Park and Lido

The Park was maintained in good condition and proved very popular. The Lido had a bumper season during the hot weather of 1959 and it was pleasing to note that at no time was the water in an unsatisfactory condition. The purification plant has been maintained in order and it is hoped that with the profit made during 1959 some improvement to the facilities at the Lido will be possible.

Bowling Green, Droitwich Park

Following discussions and negotiations with the Bowling Club it was decided to dismantle and remove the old bowling pavilion which was inadequate for the Club requirements and to provide a new one. This work was carried out in the Autumn and a very attractive red cedar pavilion erected, the Club paying an increased rent to meet the loan charges.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

The Sewers have operated generally satisfactorily during the year and there have been no major blockages.

Flooding occurred on several occasions in the yards of premises fronting Queen Street and complaints were received. Upon your Council receiving a report it was apparent that only with a major relief sewer will it be possible to prevent this flooding and it was decided that no action should be taken until such time as the Sewage Disposal Works were being implemented with new works.

The disposal works operated satisfactorily, two sets of filter arms, and a set of tanks being replaced. The works are still much overloaded and the effluent produced whilst being good for the works in their present condition is not satisfactory. Your attention has been called to this matter by the Severn River Board and steps should be taken to press on with the extensions necessary with all speed.

Water Supply.

Water continued to be purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and during the year consideration was being given to the question of the sale of the undertaking to the Company. Consumption during 1956 amounted to 102,723,000 galls. averaging 280,660 gallons per day in 1956, as compared with 295,080 gallons per day in 1955.

877 taps and 496 ball valves were adjusted or washered free during the year.

Parks and Open Spaces.

Vines Park Bowling Green has shown much improvement and received the approval of the Worcestershire Bowling Association. The number of players on this green continues to increase in numbers and it is becoming a useful amenity in the Borough. Assistance in the cutting of the King George Playing Field continues by the cricket club. This is most useful and undoubtedly assists in the maintenance of this field, which is much overworked. Additional playing field space is much needed and consideration might be given to reclamation of the derelict land left as a result of the tipping of refuse.

The conveniences at the Droitwich Park have, together with the Park Lodge, now been connected to the Sewer and the insanitary cesspool abolished. This has been a very useful improvement.

Drill Hall.

The uses for the Drill Hall continue to increase. Two rooms were let off to a local business firm and the others are now in use by various organisations and partially for storage of housing materials in connection with your housing department. The drill hall itself is in use as garage space apart from the times it is used for various social events. A scheme was prepared for the use of the hall for a covered market but after careful consideration it was decided not to proceed with the scheme.

I would ask the Council not to forget that the Drill Hall premises are in a very poor state of repair.

I am,
Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,
GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,
Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

APPENDIX.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work has continued upon a bi-monthly basis, and I can report that the Town is free from any major infestation:-

A summary of work carried out is as follows:-

		<u>Type of Property.</u>			
	<u>L. Au-</u> <u>thority.</u>	<u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Agricul-</u> <u>tural</u>
1. Total No. of properties in Borough.	9	1976	188	2173	11
2. No. of properties inspected as (a) - a result of (a) notifi - cation or survey under the Act (b) 9	-	13	3	16	-
Otherwise (c) -	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of proper- (a) ties RATS. Major - under 2. Minor 76 found to (b) be infes- Major - ted by MICE. Minor - (a) rats or (b) mice.	-	-	-	-	-
		48	6	60	3
		-	-	-	-
		14	2	16	-
4. No. of infested properties treated.	76	62	11	79	3
5. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of Act.					
(a) Treatment	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing).	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

